

VERMONT

SUMMARY OF FY 1997 ENVIRONMENTAL PERFORMANCE PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT

Vermont's Environmental Performance Partnership Agreement focuses on the state's water programs. In conjunction with its water quality goals, Vermont has developed additional goals in other media programs. These goals, while not specifically covered under the Agreement, are included in this summary for informational purposes.

SUMMARY OF DEC GOALS, OBJECTIVES, AND STRATEGIES

Water Programs	
Key Goal	Objectives
Protection of Public Health.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Enhance public community water system source protection program.• Develop and implement the State Revolving Fund (SRF) for public water system projects.• Improve public community water system compliance.• Improve the Department's capability to electronically manage drinking water data.• Improve technical and administrative assistance to public community water systems.• Revise and complete the comprehensive state ground water protection program (CSGWPP).• Revise/adopt the groundwater protection rule and strategy.• Secure EPA approval of the revised "Protecting Public Water Sources in Vermont" document.
Ecosystem Protection.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reduce phosphorus in the Lake Champlain Basin consistent with an established strategy.• Provide necessary involvement with the revision of the water quality standards.• Improve coordination of the Self-Assessment Program, the WWMD Inspection Program, and the Financial, Management, & Operator Evaluation Program for municipal wastewater treatment facilities.• Streamline and stabilize the Wetlands Management Program.• Initiate a water conservation study for 4 communities• Implement the agriculture water quality program to protect the Lake Champlain and Lake Memphremagog watershed basins for nonpoint contamination.• Complete a sensitive watersheds hydrology study.• Complete the Wetlands Natural Community Inventory Project.

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Water Programs	
Management.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Integrate pollution prevention considerations into Department regulatory actions. • Improve regulatory efficiency and streamline permit processes where appropriate. • Implement a new Compliance Assistance Program.
Compliance and Enforcement.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Begin significant multi-media inspections at some facilities. • Continue to monitor compliance of all permitted wastewater facilities and public drinking water supplies through appropriate on-site inspections, municipal self-assessments, and sanitary surveys. • Initiate a compliance assistance program focused solely on voluntary compliance. • Improve tracking of permit conditions and noted violations. • Enhance efficiency of the Legal Staff of the Enforcement Division. • Integrate municipal self-assessment efforts with inspection programs to more efficiently use resources. • Enhance milestone reminder letters and phone contact follow-up to improve the level of compliance of small water supply systems. • Finalize and utilize the self-evaluation policy for regulated entities.

Drinking Water Program	
Key Goal	Objectives
Safe drinking water for all Vermont water systems.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that safe drinking water is available to 99 percent of all non-public water systems annually.
Safe drinking water is consistently and reliably provided to bottled water company and public water customers.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that 99 percent of new construction for bottled water companies and public water systems will meet construction standards annually. • Ensure that 75 percent of existing bottled water companies and public water systems meet construction standards by 2005. • Ensure that 80 percent of existing bottled water companies and public water systems meet water quality standards By 2000.

VERMONT (cont.)

Drinking Water Program	
Key Goal	Objectives
Obtain the information needed to make appropriate planning decisions and offer public education.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annually collect and analyze the target amount of data needed to manage the Drinking Water Program.

Ground Water Program	
Key Goal	Objectives
Maintain existing potable quality of Vermont's ground water.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> By 2001, reduce the number of exposures from new sources of contamination by 20 percent.
Improve the quality of and reduce the risks from non potable ground water.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> By 2001, reduce the number of exposures from existing sources of contamination by 50 percent.
Obtain the information needed to manage the Ground Water program and provide public education materials.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annually collect and analyze the target amount of data needed to manage the Ground Water program. By 1998, complete a Vermont plan to coordinate the management of ground water in Vermont.

Surface Water Program	
Key Goal	Objectives
Protect human health and property from surface water hazards.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annually maintain the current low level of property and human losses from flooding, and develop quantitative measures by 1998. Annually assure that ambient surface waters quality poses an acceptable risk to human health.
Foster quality recreational experiences on surface waters which do not adversely affect surface water use and values.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annually maintain current efforts to foster quality recreational experiences on surface waters.
Obtain the information needed to manage the Surface Water program.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annually collect and analyze the target amount of data needed to manage the Surface Water Program.

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Air Quality Program	
Key Goal	Objectives
Prevent discharges of air contamination which may threaten health and the environment, or be offensive, from all sources of air pollution.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annually maintain compliance with federal national ambient air quality standards, and by 2000 achieve compliance with HAAS.
Obtain the information needed to make appropriate planning decisions and for public education.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annually collect and analyze the target amount of data to manage the Air Program.

Ecosystems Program	
Key Goal	Objectives
Protect and maintain the quality of existing healthy surface water and wetland ecosystems.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annually maintain or enhance the 1996 levels of surface water and wetland ecosystem quality and develop more quantifiable measures by 2000. Facilitate the construction of the proper municipal pollution control facilities to maintain water quality.
Improve the quality of degraded surface water and wetland ecosystems.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annually achieve measurable improvements in surface water and wetland ecosystems. Facilitate the construction of the necessary municipal pollution control facilities to obtain desired water quality.
Obtain the information needed to manage the Ecosystem Program.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Every five years, assess the water quality and wetlands in the entire state at the level necessary to allocate resources to efficiently manage ecosystems. Annually collect and analyze the target amount of data needed to manage the Ecosystem Program.

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Management	
Key Goal	Objectives
People comply with statutes and rules which are administered and enforced in a fair and consistent manner.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> By 1998 complete the streamlining and coordination of DEC enforcement. By 1996 consider Supplemental Environmental Projects (SEPs) on 100 percent of enforcement settlements and incorporate them as appropriate. By 1998 consider whole facility enforcement approach on 100 percent of cases and implement as appropriate.
Improve compliance with all environmental laws, rules, and permits.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> By 1998 develop an overall compliance measure for DEC and implement actions to improve overall compliance.
Incorporate comprehensive planning into the management of the department, to use and enhance available funds and positions, effectively and efficiently, with full staff input.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use the Comprehensive Management System (CMS) to build the FY 1997 federal and FY 1998 state budget using a qualitative ranking system for projects.
To provide clear, timely, helpful and competent service to our customers, and to achieve a relationship of trust and cooperation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> By 1998 improve our overall good to excellent satisfaction rating to 62 percent from the 57 percent in 1995.
To provide requested technical assistance to municipalities, federal agencies and other state agencies and departments.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide the requested technical assistance in a competent and timely manner.
The public is aware of the significance of our natural resources and their vulnerabilities, and is involved in determining our future goals.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annually respond to all requests for information on all aspects of the Department's responsibilities. Annually provide targeted audience public information which addresses all aspects of DEC's responsibilities.

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Management	
Key Goal	Objectives
Wise use and efficient consumption of resources in a manner that forever promotes the consistent availability of our renewable resources, while maintaining the integrity of ecosystems.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annually maintain existing efforts and develop improved approaches to enable Vermonters to maintain sustainable use of our natural resources. • By 2000, achieve a 40 percent reduction in solid waste disposal, 45 percent reduction in hazardous waste generated and 15 percent reduction in toxics used by Vermont business and industry.
Effective department management.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • By 1/1/98 have 80 percent of staff and the public view of DEC management as effective. • Annually conduct studies to determine most appropriate use of environmental technologies in Vermont. • By 1998 use multi-media inspections and approaches at 100 percent of industrial inspections. • By 1997, streamline the wetlands protection program and obtain an unfettered funding source.
Provide cost effective and accurate laboratory data.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • By 1998 maintain the current level of accuracy and improve cost effectiveness by target amount.
Improve and update information systems used in DEC.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annually develop and implement the Department information system plans.
Employees are continually trained in career related topics.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annually implement individual employee training programs.
To keep environmental standards, used in regulatory projects, current.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annually assure that standards used in regulatory projects are no more than 5 years outdated.
To obtain the funds needed to effectively administer the programs and projects of the Department.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annually continue to develop more stable funding sources.
Enable F&W and FP&R capital construction project implementation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • F&W and FP&R projects implemented as needed.